

**INVITATION UNIGIS 20 Years celebration**

**To students and alumni and current and former staff of UNIGIS Amsterdam,**

This year, **UNIGIS Amsterdam** is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. We will mark this milestone at the GeoFort, near Utrecht, on **Wednesday 18 September 2013**. On behalf of the entire UNIGIS team it is my pleasure to invite you to join us on this special day!

It will be an occasion where current and former students and staff, and invited guests will reflect together on the past, present and future of distance learning GIS education. In the past 20 years, over 400 students from across the world have participated in the UNIGIS curriculum offered by the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, under the auspices of UNIGIS International. This is a moment to reflect on our achievements: what contributions has this dedicated GIS programme made to individual careers, public services, business and science? It is also a moment to discuss the future directions of our programme, and of geospatial science and technology in general.

Four pioneers in this field, each with a heart for GIS education and outstanding careers in science and entrepreneurship, have kindly agreed to lead the discussions:

Antonio Camara, Professor in Environmental Systems Engineering at Universidade Nova de Lisboa and CEO of YWorks

Henk Scholten, Professor in Spatial Informatics at the Vrije Universiteit, director of UNIGIS Amsterdam and CEO of Geodan

Josef Strobl, Professor in Geoinformatics at Salzburg Universität and president of UNIGIS International

John Wilson, Professor in Geography and Sociology at University of Southern California and Director of UNIGIS USC

We highly anticipate the contributions that you will make to these discussions. To mark the dynamic character of the UNIGIS community, we also encourage each of you to register one guest to join us for this event to be able to share their views and experiences.

In the afternoon, we will be making the most of the wonderful hosting venue: the recently opened GeoFort, once part of strategic defence works of The Netherlands, now a dedicated site for education, training and leisure rooted in geo information, [www.geofort.nl](http://www.geofort.nl). We will put our own GeoInformation skills to the test in a Serious Game.

The day will end with a barbecue and a guest lecture by Carl Steinitz, Emeritus Professor at Harvard. He will introduce us to his groundbreaking concept of “Geodesign”, which is provoking new perspectives and practices in spatial planning through an integration of design, geoscience and geospatial technology. Professor Steinitz’s lecture also marks the start of the first European Geodesign Summit, which will take place at the GeoFort on 19 and 20 September, and for which you can register separately: <http://www.geodesignsummit.com/europe/>.

Please complete the **enclosed registration form** and return it (in digital *or* paper format) to the UNIGIS Office by **Monday 26th August 2013**:

unigis.feweb@vu.nl or UNIGIS Office, FEWEB-RE, VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam

I look forward to welcoming you to the UNIGIS 20 Years Celebration!

Kind regards,

Niels van Manen

UNIGIS MSc Coordinator

**Registration Form UNIGIS 20 Years, Wednesday 18 September 2013 (return by 26th August to** unigis.feweb@vu.nl or UNIGIS Office, FEWEB-RE, VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam)

**Your details**

*First Name:* *Surname:*

*Intake (if applicable):* *Preferred email address:*

**Your guest’s details**

*First Name:* *Surname:*

*Preferred email address:*

**Please indicate any dietary preferences here:**

**……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**Payment details**

*Please transfer 25 Euros for yourself**(plus 25 Euros for your guest) to the following account, with the* ***payment reference UNIGIS20Years****:*

Account:  48.86.44.836

Account name: Stichting VU-VUmc inzake FEWEB-AMBER

Address: De Boelelaan 1095, 1081 HV Amsterdam

IBAN:  NL29DEUT0488644836, BIC:  DEUTNL2N